

Remarks:

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 14-15, 17, 21-25 and 30-31 have been amended. Claims 20 and 36 have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-19 and 21-35 are pending.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 were objected to for informalities. Claim 1 has been amended to remove reference numbers and correct the informalities. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to claims 1-19 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 14-15, 17, 21-25 and 30-31 are also amended to remove reference numbers. No new matter has been added with these amendments.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 20 was rejected as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claim 20 has been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 20 is moot.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 20 was rejected for improperly defining a process claim. Claim 20 has been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 20 is moot.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the objections and rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-19 and 21-35 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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